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S E C R E T HARARE 001205

SIPDIS

NOFORN

NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR C. COURVELLE, D. TEITELBAUM  
LONDON FOR C. GURNEY  
PARIS FOR C. NEARY  
NAIROBI FOR T. PFLAUMER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/20/2009

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [Z1](#) [MDC](#)

SUBJECT: TREASON VERDICT REPORTEDLY DEFERRED

REF: HARARE 1201

Classified By: Political Officer Win Dayton Under Section 1.5 b/d

[11](#). (SBU) MDC President Morgan Tsvangirai's lawyers informed the Embassy July 20 that the High Court had advised them that day that judgment in Tsvangirai's treason trial would not be rendered July 29, as earlier expected. The court did not indicate a new date for the judgment's release or a reason for the postponement.

[12](#). (S/NF) COMMENT: Sensitive reporting (septel), corroborated indirectly by outside sources, suggested that the GOZ had wired a guilty verdict and death sentence. The postponement may suggest that the GOZ is deliberating further on the matter and could be open to outside pressure. In any event, a deferred decision continues to serve ruling party purposes by absorbing the MDC leader's attention and resources and publicly reinforcing the opposition's apparent impotence.

SULLIVAN